

Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 22, Number 3

May - June 2002



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Wilmington District

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Speaking Out



Coastal Engineer **Mike Wutkowski** spoke to the Professional Engineers of North Carolina (PENC) at the groups monthly meeting in Wilmington, NC. Mike discussed the value and design of storm damage reduction projects.

Wilmington Regulatory Office Chief **Keith Harris** made a presentation on the Mason Inlet Relocation to the Wilmington Engineers Club during the groups monthly meeting.

Civil Engineers **Bobby Willis** and **Ray Batchelor** displayed the 3-D Coastal Surge Model at the East Carolina University 2002 Hurricane Conference in Greenville, NC.

John H. Kerr Rangers **Sherrie Storm**, **Eric Edwardson**, **Tyree Robertson**, **Mary Gardner**, **Mike Large**, **Beth Huffines** and volunteer **Angela Taylor** presented water safety programs to 420 high school students, 200 middle school students and 1240 elementary students in North Carolina and Virginia Schools.

Biologist **Bill Adams** gave an overview of Corps Planning and Environmental Branch activities throughout North Carolina to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Roanoke-Tar-Neuse-Cape Fear Ecosystem Team.

David Franklin of the Wilmington Regulatory Office was a speaker for the Mid-Atlantic/New England Planning and Environment Caucus held in Providence, RI. The theme of the caucus meeting was "Linking Planning and Environment."

Geotechnical Section Chief **Bob Snipes** and Co-op **Rosemary Cohen** served on a Career Day panel at Pender County High School for more than 50 advanced-math students.

John H. Kerr Ranger **Sherrie Storm** teamed up with North Carolina Park Rangers for Safe Kids, Inc. -- a Water Safety Exhibit in Henderson, NC. More than 500 children participated.

W. Kerr Scott Rangers **Jory Triplett** and **Rebecca Jolly** presented an overview of the Dam and Reservoir to 30 members of the Wilkes County Kiwanis Club.

John H. Kerr Rangers **Jim Martin** and **Sherrie Storm**, along with **Joyce Taylor**, teamed up with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department for the 2nd annual School Resource Officer's Picnic where more than 600 children got water safety training and were "sworn-in" as Junior Safety Rangers.

Philpott Powerhouse Senior Electrician **Bill Coe** is a 3-time winner of the quarterly District Safety Slogan Contest. His latest slogan: "When you gamble with safety, you bet your life."

Cover: COL Charles Ray Alexander (left) takes the Engineer Flag from BG Pete Madsen (right) as he assumes command of the Wilmington District from COL James DeLony (center). Photo by Scott Maners

Community Outreach



Kid's Day at the Cape Fear Museum

Visitors were fascinated by the Corps exhibit of insectivorous plants displayed as part of the Kids Day Celebration at the Cape Fear Museum in Wilmington. Regulatory Co-op Kevin Yates (far left) showed onlookers how to identify the Venus Flytrap and the Purple Pitcher, which grow naturally in local wet pine savannahs. Regulatory Specialists Lillette Moore and Angie Pennock taught that plants normally get nutrients from the soil, but insectivorous plants have adapted the ability to trap and draw nutrients from insects. It was explained that this unique characteristic might have developed as a means for plants to survive poor soil conditions.

National "Bring a Child to Work Day"

TEAM members brought sons and daughters to the Wilmington District building for a little taste of the Engineering profession and a peek at how mom and dad fill their workdays. Children began their tour with cookies and punch before they moved to presentations such as "Sea Turtles," "Awesome Artifacts," "Interesting Rocks," "Aerial Photography-Where Do You Live," "Create a Power Point Presentation," and "TV Interviews." At the right, Major Shepard shows children some survey maps. The event was sponsored and coordinated by the Federal Women's Program Committee, chaired by Lisa Hetherman.



Wilmington Maritime Day Celebration

More than 3,000 people flocked to Wilmington for Maritime Day an annual event sponsored by the State Port Authority. The day was filled with lots of live entertainment as well as many opportunities for learning about the importance of commerce on the Cape Fear River. Wilmington District TEAM members Penny Schmitt and Julius James manned a display on the Wilmington Harbor Deepening Project, which will allow the port to accommodate ships with more cargo. Paula Carper (far left) worked the water safety exhibit where several children were given coloring books and Frisbees with water safety messages.



Wilmington District



Order of the Long Leaf Pine

Governor Mike Easley (above, right) presented COL James DeLony with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest award. The award was given in recognition of COL DeLony's many contributions to the state during his tenure as commander of the Wilmington District from 1999 to 2002. Under COL DeLony's leadership, the Wilmington District led relief efforts following Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd, completed repairs to the Princeville Dike and completed a major portion of the Wilmington Harbor Deepening Project.



SAD Safety Award

Wilmington District Safety Officer Bill Harris received the SAD Safety Award for outstanding contributions to the Corps-wide Safety and Occupational Health Program in FY 2001.



American Coastal Coalition Awards

The American Coastal Coalition honored Wayne Bissette (above), Wilmington District Chief of Engineering, with its first-ever "Corps of Engineers" Award for leadership on a 933 Agreement, which placed more than 5 million cubic yards of beach-quality sand onto Brunswick County public beaches. The agreement grew out of Bissette's commitment to "beneficial use of dredged material" from the Wilmington Harbor Deepening Project. Project Engineer Chris Frabotta (below, left) supervised the dredging and placement of 15 miles of sand along Bald Head Island, Caswell Beach, Oak Island and Holden Beach. The group recognized Caswell Beach as one of the "Top Five Restored Beaches in America".



Celebrates Success



From L to R: Ben Lackey, Geotechnical Engineer; Carroll Niesen, Chief of Design Branch; Chuck Wilson, Biologist; Mike Wutkowski, Coastal Engineer; Richard Kimmel, Archeologist; Sharon Haggett, Project Manager; Ron Fascher, Chief of Technical Planning; Bob Finch, Economist; Brooke Lamson, Legal Counselor; and Ted Zielonka, Geologist.

Outstanding Planning Achievement Award

The Project Delivery TEAM (PDT) for the Dare County Beaches Feasibility Study has been awarded the SAD Outstanding Planning Achievement Award. The group gained recognition “for the quality of their teamwork, the innovative procedures and philosophies involved in bringing a difficult and locally contentious study to favorable conclusion, and the strong partnership embraced with the non-Federal sponsor.” The SAD award also noted the PDT was instrumental in developing and using a storm damage evaluation model that combines coastal engineering and economic models with risk and uncertainty features.



Operations and Maintenance “Castle” Award

Steve Carroll, Senior Electrician at John H. Kerr Power Plant, has been selected for the inaugural USACE Operations and Maintenance “Castle” Award. The award was established to recognize Wage Grade and similar series personnel, working in support of Operations and Maintenance Civil Works infrastructure. Each of the eight USACE MSCs named Division-level awardees. Steve was the award recipient for the South Atlantic Division. HQ then selected Steve from among the Division awardees to receive the overall USACE Castle Award. The award is presented to the nominee who best exemplifies principles of the Corps vision, command goals and mission through exceptional performance of duties, team support, customer service, attention to safety, self-development and specific contributions to an area of expertise. Steve will be presented the award at the 2002 Senior Leaders Conference, and will also shadow USACE Command Sergeant Major Dils during the Conference.





Rock is placed on geotextile fabric to construct a breakwater along Roanoke Island's southern shoreline.



A silt curtain is put in place to control turbidity during construction of the breakwater and sill.

Aquatic Ecosystem Res

By Christine Bruske

Roanoke Island Festival Park is a magical place where visitors “step back in time” to tour a 16th-century sailing ship and speak with the first English settlers in the New World. More than 100,000 people visit Festival Park each year for the “history-made-fun” experience, which includes an interactive museum, an art gallery, and a summer-long visual and performing arts program.

Keeping history alive, however, has given rise to some challenges for keeping the ecosystem alive. Foot traffic and boat traffic, along with the natural effects of storms and salt spray, significantly impacted Roanoke Island's aquatic habitat. In the past two years, more than 200 trees have died in the Island's maritime forest. The shoreline has receded by 20 feet in just ten years. Low salinities and depleted aquatic habitat in

the bay has limited oyster bed establishment, a natural filter important for water quality.

“We were contacted by the North Carolina Division of Water Resources to develop an ecosystem restoration plan for Roanoke Island,” said Wilmington District Biologist Chuck Wilson. “We recommended development of a project under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act, which authorizes aquatic ecosystem restoration.”

The restoration project grew into a collaborative effort involving federal and state agencies, conservation groups, North Carolina State University, the Roanoke Island Commission and many local community volunteers. “This project is truly a model of partnerships,” said Deloris Harrell, Executive Director of the Roanoke Island Commission. “In

2000, a group of agencies sat around the table to discuss the erosion issues of the island. Hopes of a collaboration and resolution were dim, at best. But because there were some folks at the table who believed a good environmental solution existed, the project did not die. Bob Keistler, Chuck Wilson and Lennie Farmer became major players and through their expertise, there now exists a project we are all proud to claim.”

Construction started in January 2002, with the installation of a rock sill and breakwater. Using a barge-mounted backhoe and skid loader, about 1,500 cubic yards of riprap were lined up for 1,330 feet just off the island's southern shoreline. The design included 20-foot openings every 100 feet to allow the free flow of tidal waters and access inside the structure for fish and other aquatic life.



Wilmington District Biologists Chuck Wilson (left) and Hugh Heine check elevations prior to marsh grass plantings. High and low marsh grasses need to be planted at specific tidal elevations to survive.



Ron Hollifield of the NC Forest Service demonstrates the proper way to plant seedlings during a tree-planting event for community volunteers.

stored at Festival Park

"The rock sill and breakwater were necessary to protect the wetland fringe," said Wilmington District Structural Engineer Garry Pennington. "We put 100 feet of breakwater, which has an elevation of 4-1/2 feet, near the channel. That will break up the waves created by boat traffic. Another 1,200 feet of sill, which has an elevation of 2-1/2 feet, will provide substantial protection for the marshland."

Once construction of the sill and breakwater were complete, sand was brought in and placed along the eroded shoreline to provide a planting bed for new marsh grasses. A strip of oyster shells was also added, which will stabilize the sand fill and will promote a diversified habitat. Within a year, an additional 10,000 bushels of oyster shells or "culch" will be placed offshore of the sill to form a new acre-long oyster reef.

The restored aquatic ecosystem extends beyond the marsh to include the

maritime forest where dead trees were removed and live seedlings were planted. In cooperation with the Corps and the Festival Park Commission, the North Carolina Forest Service provided 1,000 loblolly pines and 100 live oaks for a community tree-planting event. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and North Carolina State University provided 50 Atlantic white cedars. Future plantings will include bald cypress and persimmon.

"Restoring the maritime forest is important to sustainability of the ecosystem because it provides a buffer between park development and the adjacent estuarine habitat," said Chuck Wilson. "The project also calls for educational signs to be posted, which explain the improvements to park visitors."

"This project demonstrates at least two of the USACE Environmental Operating Principles," said Corps Project Manager Bob Keistler. "First--striving to

achieve environmental sustainability and second--building an integrated scientific, economic and social knowledge base for greater understanding of the environment. Now everyone associated with Festival Park has a much better understanding of the importance of the natural environment and what needs to be done to protect and promote it."

Project Delivery TEAM

Bob Keistler, Project Manager
 Chuck Wilson, Biologist/Technical Lead
 Len Farmer, Project Engineer
 Garry Pennington,
 Structural Engineer/Design
 Dennis Lynch, Construction
 Supervisor/Contract Administrator
 John Caldwell, Cost Estimator
 Tom Child, Soils Engineer
 Hilda Ayers, Contracting Officer
 Jim Stirling, Counsel
 Sean Carter, Inspector

TEAM BUILDING BBQ





CORPS DAY 2002



Micheal Hosey (Jordan) and Ron Fascher (TS-PS) receive Employee of the Year Awards from COL DeLony.



Change of Command

COL Ray Alexander takes the helm as COL James DeLony retires and celebrates a cherished career

*By Penny Schmitt
Photos by Scott Maners*

It was a gem of a ceremony for a jewel of a district, as Wilmington District said farewell to Col. James W. DeLony and hailed Col. Charles R. Alexander as its new commander on June 13th.

More than 650 Wilmington District team members and retirees, military officers, federal, state, and local officials and family members packed the Grand Ballroom at the Wilmington Hilton Waterside Hotel. The Color Guard of the 20th Engineer Combat Airborne Brigade bore the colors with breathtaking precision and dignity. The 82nd Airborne Division All American band stirred hearts and souls with patriotic marches and songs. Junior ROTC members from North Brunswick High School also assisted with the ceremony as ushers.

LTG Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers, brought the audience to its feet in his surprise appearance to conduct COL DeLony's retirement.

Flowers called the Wilmington District "one of the crown jewels in the Corps of Engineers" a sentiment echoed by COL Alexander as he initiated his new command. "I know this jewel shines so brightly because of the contributions and quality of the competent, professional and cohesive workforce," he said, noting that the District "is known for its extraordinary teamwork and the delivery of top-quality services to the customer and the nation."

In his farewell remarks, COL DeLony expressed confidence in the future. "What happens now is, your District and Army carries on!" he said. He also emphasized the part customers, partners and stakeholders have played in bringing about "outstanding achievements in the public interest."

Some of the achievements Col DeLony celebrated with the District on leaving command included on-time, in-budget



Deputy Commander, Major Thatch Shepard, officiated the Change of Command Ceremony.

work on the massive Wilmington Harbor Project, including the environmental restoration on Island 13, completion of a project to place sand on area beaches, and award of the largest dredging contract in the District's history.

During COL DeLony's tenure, the District also carried out Hurricane Response and Recovery actions after hurricanes Dennis and Floyd, including the rebuilding of flood control works for Princeville, North Carolina, a historic community founded by freed slaves.

LTG Flowers strongly commended COL DeLony as he closed out his 28 years of active duty with the U.S. Army, "He was one of the architects of victory in Desert Storm and Operation Just Cause in Panama," Flowers said, "then he went on to become instrumental in Florida's recovery from Hurricane Andrew." LTG Flowers also noted that COL DeLony is "high energy, always devoted to getting the job done and making things happen,"



The Wilmington District warmly welcomes the Alexander family (Daughter, Jennifer Karlen, not pictured).



Passing of the Engineer Flag, entrusted to Eugene Tickner (right), Deputy for Programs and Project Management.



Color guard



COL Jim DeLony and LTG Bob Flowers

The Chief drew laughter from the audience with reminiscences about the COL DeLony so many of us knew so well. Just as all soldiers remember their drill sergeant, the Chief said, "every Junior Officer who ever served with COL DeLony will always remember him." He added that while serving in Somalia, he was called out of his tent for a middle-of-the-night phone call. "It was Jim DeLony calling from the air-conditioned 18th Corps headquarters. He just wanted to say 'hi.'"

LTG Flowers conferred the coveted Silver Order of the De Fleury Medal in honor of COL DeLony's service to the Engineer Regiment, and the Legion of Merit for his outstanding service as Commander of Wilmington District. He also recognized Mrs. Jennifer DeLony, and the DeLonys' sons Brian and John for their devoted service to the nation, including a tour of duty living in Pakistan.

The Chief of Engineers also told Wilmington District to anticipate fine leadership from COL Alexander, "his character was forged and tempered through a very tough process," he told the District, "you are getting a tremendous man and a great leader."

After COL Alexander gave the Color Guard the command to "Retire the colors," the official party left the stage to a rousing chorus of "Old Troopers Never Die (they just slip away)" and "Auld Lang Syne" followed by the Army song. Wilmington District then said farewell to the DeLony's and hail to our new commander, COL Alexander and his family.

Now it's truly a time to 'carry on' with another great three years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. ESSAYONS!



Family. (L to R) Aaron Alexander, Connie Lawson (COL Alexander's Godmother), COL Ray Alexander, Sean Alexander, and Ryan Alexander.



Guard, 20th Engineer Brigade, Ft. Bragg.



(L to R) Eugene Tickner, COL Ray Alexander, COL Jim DeLony and BG Pete Madsen prepare to take center stage for the Change of Command Ceremony.



BG Pete Madsen



Colonel Charles Ray Alexander

Colonel Charles Ray Alexander, Jr., 52nd Commander of Wilmington District, joins the District from Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, where he served as an instructor at the U.S. Army War College.

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Colonel Alexander holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Richmond, and a Masters of Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia.

Colonel Alexander's military education includes the U.S. Army War College, the Armed Forces Staff College Joint and Combined Staff Officers Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and both the Engineer Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses.

Colonel Alexander has served in numerous command and staff positions during his career, both in the United States and overseas.

His troop assignments include command of the 11th Engineer Battalion, 3d Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia; executive officer, 12th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, Mannheim, Germany; commander of B Company, 46th Engineer Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade, Fort Rucker, Alabama; platoon leader and executive officer, 84th Engineer Company, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, Nuremburg, Germany.

His staff assignments include service as Chief, Engineer Division, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Division, Directorate of Combat Development, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; program analyst, J8, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida; Chief of Military Engineering and Topography Branch, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer, headquarters 7th Army and U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany; assignments officer, Officer Personnel Management Directorate, 1st Personnel Command, Schwetzingen, Germany; analyst, U.S. Army Decision Systems Management Agency, Office Chief of Staff of the Army, Headquarters Department of the Army, Washington D.C.

Operations Plan Update

District strengthens business processes

"We keep on getting better!" says B.J. Suggs, who, along with the Quality Steering Group, monitors progress with the Wilmington District's Operations Plan. "This past month, we achieved two of our objectives for 2002, and though they aren't very jazzy-sounding, they're very important to our future."

Objective 2.1 Develop a Standing Operating Procedure for our Command Operating Budget, was completed by Budget Officer Rhonda Wiggins and coordinated with the Working Program Budget Advisory Committee and the South Atlantic Regional Standard Budget Team.

"This isn't a ho-hum thing," Suggs said. "Just two years ago, we didn't even have a Command Operating Budget. As we move further into Regional Business Processes, it becomes ever more important to do a top-notch job preparing and executing a 3-year budget plan. The how-to procedure that Rhonda and our PBAC have created is really an important empowering tool. It will help us move into the future by a much clearer chart than even the most educated guess."

Objective 2.4 Create a Standard Operating Procedure for the 5-year Objective Organization Plan was completed by Sarah Tingley and coordinated with the District Staff. "We are changing very fast in Wilmington District," Suggs said. "As new people arrive and take on leadership roles, we want to be able to continue the excellent staff planning that we created in our first Objective Organization Plan. Again, this SOP is a superb 'how-to' that will help managers approach their staffing needs intelligently over the long term. We'll be sure that we look for the right skills, and just as important, that we have the right resources to support any positions we decide to hire."

Yard Crew Has Mettle!

By Fred Lehman

Wilmington District's Vessel Repair Yard has been bustling the past couple of months, as the yard crew undertook the monumental job of redesigning and rebuilding the Dredge FRY's 35-ton seagoing crane.

On March 23, in Cape May Inlet, New Jersey, the FRY's boom violently separated from its crane base due to multiple fractures of the steel heel pin, and the discharge pipe and boom structure collapsed to the deck and into the sea. A disaster of this type is known as 'cratering'. Fortunately, the captain and crew responded quickly and maneuvered the vessel safely to a harbor anchorage. Nobody was injured. After recovering the partly submerged boom, the FRY made her way back to Wilmington and began her transformation back into a working dredge.

The repair yard crew has always had a 'can-do' attitude about fixing and maintaining our vessels, but this project was their greatest challenge. These tight-knit pros took the challenge, and between March 31 and the end of May, put our broken 300-ton sidecast dredge back in operation.

They transformed a seagoing boom constructed of SAE code 836 steel, weighing 26,000 pounds into a

strengthened, highly stable dynamically designed "superboom" weighing in at 19,500 pounds. Just watching this project take shape was an awesome sight for the ship's crew, who themselves pitched in to assist the yard crew.

Great credit goes to the men who worked long hours almost every day until the repair was complete. Yard Machinist Keith Fearon helped design, fabricate, and install precision components new to the system. Yard Welder Glenn Davis and his colleague Willie Blackman, deck-welder on loan from the Dredge MERRITT, designed, planned and fabricated a great deal of the vessel's new 'superboom' and crane base. The project, under the control of Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Dave Hunter, and yard work leader Ken Bailey, was a total success. Also supporting the operation were Supply Technician Penny Mahaffey, Tool and Parts Attendant Ron Roberts, and Maintenance Mechanic Daryl Kruse, who all worked diligently behind the scenes.

This group of skilled people at the Repair Yard has earned the highest esteem of our vessel crews, and they reflect great credit upon the Wilmington District. They done good!



Gate Attendants, Happy Visitors

By Michael Womack, Park Ranger

Over one million happy visitors at Philpott Lake! How you might ask? Well, in large part it is due to our gate attendants that have contracted with the Corps to provide quality customer service. Since gate attendants are often the first point of contact for visitors, and sometimes the last, they are in a position to sculpt a customer's opinion of the Corps. And, from the "talk around town" the Corps is in good hands.

One pair of attendants that do a great job representing the Corps is Gene and Linda Hall at Horseshoe Point Park. Although many attendants at Corps parks are from other parts of the country, Gene and Linda both grew up near Philpott Lake in Bassett, VA. Despite their hometown roots, neither had been camping at Philpott Lake until the summer of 1997 when they began their jobs as gate attendants. The Halls have since returned to Philpott every summer and there is no disagreement or hesitation between them about why: meeting new people and making new friends. They have made new friends from as close as a mile away to as far away as California. Gene and Linda both enjoy helping others and our campers are the recipients. Many campers have said the reason for their return to Horseshoe is due to such helpful and friendly attendants.

Although Gene and Linda enjoy every day on the job, a few special memories stand out from the last five years. One event involved a visit from a young bear. The cub drew quite a bit of attention from campers, and in turn, made for a few close calls. All was calm again when the bewildered bear swam the lake and returned to the solitude of the far shore. Another special memory for the Halls was the time a local church used the picnic shelter for a concert by "The Gospel Sounds." The event was a blessing not only for the Halls, who have a personal belief in God, but for several interested campers. In fact, as Linda fondly recalled, almost everyone staying at the park attended.

While working as gate attendants, the Halls met two of their closest friends, Aggie and Lil Agnew, who are also gate attendants at Horseshoe.



Shirley and Frank Edwards have been gate attendants at Philpott Lake for five years.



Frank Edwards greets visitors and collects day fees.

Despite never meeting before, the two couples hit it off immediately and have been there for each other over the last few summers. Linda Hall said, "Working with good gate attendants helps everyone out."

The Halls say they get lots of satisfaction from serving as gate attendants. They like to share their happiness at the end of each year when they invite attendants, rangers, and campers to their annual cookout. Linda best summed up her feelings about the job when she said "I would have quit my former job long ago if I would have known about the gate attendant jobs."

Two more gate attendants that keep the visitors coming back are Frank and Shirley Edwards. The Edwards have been dedicated attendants at Salthouse

Branch Park for the past five years. Shirley, having grown up in the area, remembers many camping trips at Philpott Lake and says being an attendant reminds her of a happy childhood. Frank moved to the area from Michigan in 1981, when he met Shirley and married her a year later. The Edwards now live one-half mile from the park and enjoy the convenience of working close to home. When asked what got them started as gate attendants, the Edwards replied "our love of people and campers." Their genuine love of people is evident each year around Christmas when Frank and Shirley receive dozens of cards from their campers.

While the Edwards think all of their campers are special, they have had the opportunity to meet a few that stood out in the crowd. A frequent camper at Salthouse is former engine builder for Nascar legend Dale Earnhardt. What a treat that was for the Edwards, who are huge Nascar fans and Earnhardt followers. Another interesting camper to visit Salthouse was dubbed "Driver of the Stars." This particular "celebrity" provides transportation in his \$500,000.00 motor coach to well-known music bands, athletes, and even former Texas Governor, now President George Bush. The Edwards were impressed with the luxury of the motor coach and the friendliness of the driver who gave them a tour of his rig.

When asked why they chose to work at Philpott Lake, Shirley said, "We love Philpott because it is a beautiful lake with clear, clean water." Shirley believes those positive attributes of Philpott are the reason for so many repeat customers.

Shirley's love for lake is evident as she recalls fond childhood memories like having to pay just \$.50 per campsite. The Edwards now receive a campsite for free as part of their gate attendant package.

While gate attendants receive a few benefits for their service, we, the Corps, receive thousands, if not millions, of benefits in the form of happy customers. Frank and Shirley's goal is to create the same fond memories for their campers as Shirley recalls from her early years at Philpott Lake.



Songbird Celebration

*By Christine Bruske
Photo by Francis Ferrell*

With one eye squinted shut and the other peering through a spotting scope, 13-year-old Jill Smith was fascinated to see a bald eagle perched on a far-off nest, feeding her young. Three girl scouts from a local troop looked into the sky and were delighted to see another bald eagle gliding over the surface of the lake. Along with the girls, almost 300 nature lovers came together for the "Songbird Celebration" at Blue Jay Point on Falls Lake in recognition of International Migratory Bird Day 2002.

Ranger Biologists from Falls and Jordan Lakes teamed up with Wake County Parks and Recreation to educate visitors on the many species of birds common to the Raleigh, North Carolina area. Ranger Michael Hosey gave a presentation on the Osprey also known as the "fish hawk" because it only eats live fish. "The Osprey has very

special features that allow it to catch fish," explained Hosey. "It has excellent vision, which allows it to see fish under the water from its flight high in the sky. The Osprey can dive right down under the water and its large gripping claws are padded so it can hold onto really big fish while it flies back to its nest." Corps Co-op Francis Ferrell assisted Hosey during the presentation, which included the use of a stuffed and preserved Osprey.

During the "Bird Hike," visitors were taught to identify individual species of birds by their distinctive songs. A live red-tail hawk was the highlight of a presentation on Raptors. The story-telling segment entitled "Bird Tales and Tails" was a big hit too.

Both parents and children enjoyed the Corps "Hidden Treasures" activity, which required participants to guess what "natural treasure" was hidden in a

small box. Along with written clues, participants were encouraged to put one hand through a small hole in the box to feel the "natural treasure." "Lots of people, especially parents, jerked their hands out of the box really quick," said Ferrell. "And they were all surprised to find out the box had a pan of water in it." Rangers took the opportunity to explain that water is a valuable natural treasure, which is not only important to birds, but to all living things. The "Hidden Treasures" activity was the perfect introduction to a presentation on Water Conservation.

A presentation on water safety capped off the day's events. Visitors were reminded to learn how to swim, they were taught when and how to wear life jackets, and they were given instructions on how to help someone who is drowning without endangering themselves.

New TEAM Members



Judith Poole, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer. Judith joins the Wilmington District after 17 years with the federal government in Germany. Judith spent 13 of her federal service years as an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist. She was born and raised in Washington DC. Judith has a son named D'Jarvis.



Nathan Kirtley, Federal Career Intern, Design Section. Nathan joined the Wilmington District after earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering from NC State University. Nathan is from Salisbury, NC and has experience in commercial and residential construction. He plans to become a licensed Professional Engineer.



Kevin Stein, Co-op, Design Section. Kevin is currently a junior majoring in Civil Engineering at NC State University. Kevin is from Fayetteville, NC and one of his favorite hobbies is fishing.



Christopher Kontalonis, Co-op, Design Section. Chris is currently a sophomore at NC State University with an undeclared major. He has worked 2 summers with the Wilmington District Engineering Branch. He is a native of Greenwood, SC, but has lived in Wilmington for more than 12 years. His hobbies include golf and music.



Hasan Pourtaheri, Civil Engineer, Coastal H&H. Hasan comes to the District after 9 years with the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers where he worked in Coastal Engineering. Hasan earned a B.S. in Water Resource Engineering from Razaieh University in Iran. He holds an M.S. in Civil Engineering from State University of New York at Buffalo. Currently, he is pursuing a Ph.D. Hasan and his wife, Mahboobeh, have 3 sons Neema, Navid, and Sina.



Greg Williams, Chief, Coastal H&H. Greg comes to the District after 3 years in the private consulting industry. He also has 9 years experience with the Corps at ERDC in Vicksburg, MS and the Philadelphia District. Greg has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from NC State University, an M.E. in Coastal Engineering from Old Dominion University, and a Ph.D. in Ocean Engineering from Texas A&M University. Greg and his wife, Peggy, have 3 children Bailey, Lindsey and Wyatt.



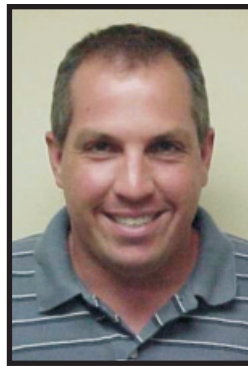
Jeff Manning, Co-op, Information Management. Jeff is a Computer Science Major at UNC-Wilmington. He was born in Illinois and is a 5-year veteran of the U.S. Army. Jeff loves water sports.



LaTanya McKinney, Co-op, Mailroom. Latanya is a senior at Shaw University majoring in Business Administration. She is the mother of 2 children named Raven and Jimmie II.



Linda Andrews, Procurement Technician, Contract Section. Linda joins the District after 7 years in Alaska working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch. Linda and her husband, Andy, are the parents of Jerry, Andrea and David. They are also the proud grandparents of Sasha, Sarah and Garrett.



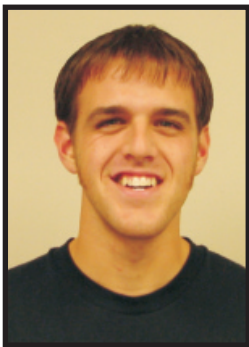
Scott Jones, Regulatory Specialist, Washington Office. Scott comes to the District after 12 years of federal service with the U.S. Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. He earned a B.S. in Biology from the UNC-Chapel Hill. Scott and his wife, Linda, have 2 daughters named Emily and Eleanor.



William Wescott, Regulatory Specialist, Washington Office. William joins the Wilmington District after 9 years with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from NC State University. He also has an M.S. in Soil Science from NC State University. William and his wife, Ginger, have 2 children named Mathew and Kathryn.



Richard Ryan, Operations Division, Navigation Branch. Richard joins the Wilmington District TEAM with 21 years of federal service. His last duty station was with the Jacksonville District as a Mechanical Engineer. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University. Richard and his wife, Jeannie have 3 children named Cozette, Stephanie and Sarahdina. They also have 10 grandchildren.



Adam Faircloth, Co-op, Navigation Branch. Adam is currently a senior majoring in Geography at the UNC-Wilmington. He recently completed an internship with the North Carolina Coastal Federation. Adam is originally from Clement, NC. He enjoys music and skateboarding.



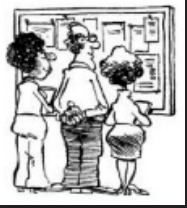
Robert Patterson, Federal Career Intern, Coastal H&H. Robert comes to the District after completing 2 internships with the NCDOT Construction and Hydraulics units. He graduated from NC State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in May of 2002. Robert lives in Wilmington with his dog, Roxanne.



Michael Rivers, Clerk, Mailroom. Michael joins the District after 13 years of federal service in Germany. He spent 3-1/2 of those 13 years in the U.S. Army. During his military career he spent 7 months in Kuwait in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Michael and his wife, Leyla have a son named Michael Jr.



Andrea Oswald, Co-op, Regulatory Division, Raleigh Field Office. Andrea has a B.S. Degree in Environmental Studies from the UNC-Asheville. She is currently pursuing an M.S. in Natural Resources and Hydrology from NC State University. Andrea is a native of Augusta, SC. She has 3 children named Kris, Ashley and Jessica.



Corps Family News



Congratulations to Gloria Price (OP) on the birth of her grandson, Kevon Corey Jacobs. Kevon weighed 8 lbs. 4oz. Mother and baby are doing fine.

After serving the Wilmington District in a temporary assignment, Ron Stirrat was selected for the recently upgraded GS-13, Chief of Emergency Management position. Whoooa!

Tara Williams...we thank you. When hundreds of new telephone books arrived for District offices, Tara took the initiative to recycle all the old telephone books that usually end up collecting dust, or worse, end up in the trash and landfills. Great work Tara!

Congratulations to Corps Biologist Scott Williams. Scott recently completed a Master of Science in Environmental Health at East Carolina University.



On May 17th, Captain James Guthrie, Senior Vessel Master on the Dredge FRY, celebrated fifty years of marriage to his beautiful bride, Hazel Moore Guthrie. The Guthries have 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren.

After working as a Co-op in Information Management for three years, Jocelyn Collins has accepted a position as Physical Scientist in the General Engineering Section. Everyone's glad to know Jocelyn will be staying with the District.



Our beloved H.T. Hale has been selected to serve the Wilmington District as Chief of Logistics Management. H.T., we know we can count on you!

Congratulations to Blair Boyd for his promotion to GS-13 Finance and Accounting Officer.

Welcome Home Roger Bullock! Roger has returned from his active duty deployment and will be working as the District Diving Coordinator.

Congratulations to the eighteen TEAM members successfully completed the 2002 LEAD class. (L to R, front row to rear) Angie Pennock, Lillette Moore, Noel Clay, Paula Brown, Scott Maners, Anita Bissette, Mike Wutkowski, Tim Smith, Bill Dennis, Alyson Parker, Raleigh Bland, Tom Farrell, Troy Beasley, David Marriner, Tommy Bourbeau, John Hendrix, Ken Tatum, Kannon Maness. Tom Corder and Richard Lewis facilitated the course.





Retiree News

By Bob Swart

The May retiree luncheon was attended by 13 people and the June luncheon was attended by 16. Highlights are as follows:

Charlie Hollis is trying to keep up with Dorothy and the grandchildren. One grandson has graduated from high school in Jacksonville, Florida and has received a baseball scholarship to Yale University.

Dorothy Everett attended the Horse Training Seminar at the Waccamaw Boys and Girls Arena, where a professional, Chris Cox, did an excellent job of training a fresh colt. Dorothy also has been staying busy with her 16-year old grandson and her son who live with her in her home.

Gus Moore and Angela will be leaving for Germany to spend 4 days with their daughter Amy, who is now an Air Force Captain, their son-in-law Andy, and their first grandchild a girl born in February. Gus and Angela will then go to Munich, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary on an 11-day tour. This will be the third time Gus has been back to Germany since he left in the spring of 1959 to join the All-Army Pistol Team at Fort Benning.

Buddy and Kay Johnson recently visited New Bern indicating they found it to be a "real jewel." They work hard to show off their historic sites. Buddy attended the ROMEO (Real Old Men Eating Out) Club for WWII Veterans and he said more than 100 people were there.

Gwen and Max Grimes attended the "Grimes Reunion." Of course, Max doesn't enjoy these eating gatherings very much or is that the rest of the family as they have to compete for the food. A comment on the luncheon log book reads, "Max Grimes is still HEAVY." Joe Lewis is suspected to have added the comment.

Joe Lewis mentioned that a Lewis family reunion was held down there at his place and he said there was plenty of food. His complaint was that he had to get ready for "them" and then had to clean up after "them." Joe, that's what comes from you being such a kind and generous person.

Lloyd Tyndall hasn't let up on the work he has been doing emphasizing that maybe he shouldn't have retired. However, there was also a comment about being involved in too much golf and fishing.

Bettye Swart and I took a trip to Florida to check on those granddaughters. We also visited Bettye's brother, Charles, in Stockbridge, Georgia.

We received some very pleasant news from our chosen luncheon waitress, Tammie Jarrett, who is Tom Jarrett's daughter-in-law. She and Rusty are expecting a baby later this year. We wish them the very best.

We would like to see some more of you old retirees at our luncheon. If you can't come, send us a card and let us know how you're getting along. Send it to Bob Swart at 127 Pilgrim Circle, Wilmington, NC 28401.

Patty Helms Griffin

Job with Wilmington District Corps: Personnel Manager, 1963-1980

Typical day in retirement: My daughter says my middle name is "GO." I am always on the go with various activities including a lot of church work.

Interesting places I have visited since retirement: Just after retirement, my husband Bill and I visited all the states. My daughter, Phyllis, and I have taken several cruises including one to South America. We have also visited France, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Family: I now live with my only child, Phyllis, who has two grown children Susan Cranfill and Steve Cavanaugh. Steve is an engineer with several offices throughout the state including one in Wilmington. He recently won an award from the NC Society of Engineers for his work on a water leak detection system in Romania. I have four great grandchildren.

Since retiring I have accomplished: Outfitting my entire family and friends several times with crocheted TV slippers.

Favorite possession: My car, so I can stay on the go.

Favorite author: Danielle Steele

Last book read: Only Love by Erich Segal.

All time favorite movie: Ghandi

Favorite city: Wilmington

Favorite junk food: Snickers and Coke

Biggest success: A loving family.



Retiree in the Spotlight

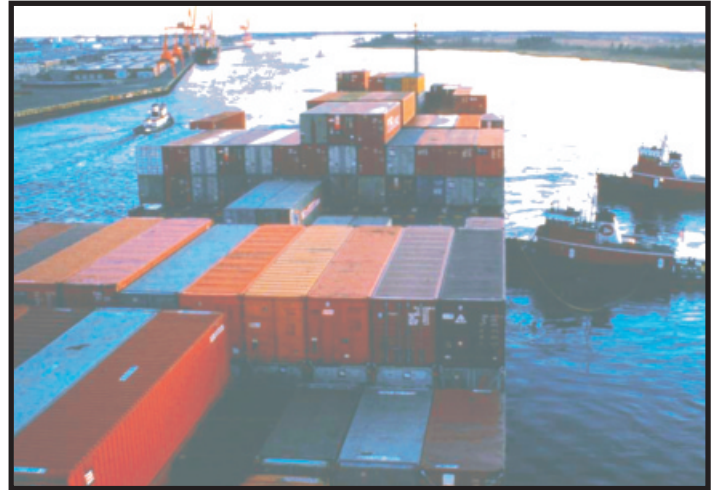
District's Biggest Contract Awarded

The Wilmington District awarded a record-breaking contract on June 3rd for dredging a major section of the Wilmington Harbor Deepening Project. The award, for \$91,272,300, went to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, based in Oak Brook, Illinois.

The contracted work is for continued deepening and widening in the Cape Fear River Navigation Channel. The work entails dredging and removal of about 11.5 million cubic yards of material, of which about 500,000 cubic yards is expected to be rock or other very hard material.

"As gateways to the global market place for our State's importers and exporters, North Carolina's Ports annually generate statewide thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenues," said Erik Stromberg, Executive Director of the North Carolina State Ports Authority, "and in the Wilmington area alone, this translates to over 6,500 jobs and more than \$23 million in tax revenues."

Construction on the Wilmington Harbor Project began in March 2000, and to date, three contracts have been completed. Two realigned the Ocean Bar Channel. The third, which included removal of rock and hard material in the Keg



Island-Big Island area of the river, was successfully completed five months ahead of schedule.

A fourth contract, referred to as "Ocean Bar II" scheduled for late summer completion, has included the placement of dredged sand on Bald Head Island, Caswell Beach, Oak Island, and Holden Beach.

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Wilmington
District News